

Weekly Status & Information Report: December 7 - 11, 2009

1. This is a MUST read – Winter Basketball League Registration for K-8: The deadline to register for the 2010 Winter Basketball League for grades K-8 is noon p.m. on Saturday, December 12, 2009. Due to the large number of children enrolled, the Recreation Department has set a cap on registration, based on first come, first served basis. If you know of someone that has not registered yet, they MUST: 1) Register Online by midnight Saturday, December 12, 2009 at <http://takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/> or 2) have Mail-in Registration post-marked by that same date or 3) Register at the Takoma Park Community Center by 5:00 p.m., Saturday, December 12, 2009. *(Recreation)*

2. Funding Requests Deadline Extended to January 8, 2010: Organizations who plan to request funding (over \$2,500) from the City of Takoma Park for FY 2011 must apply through the City's large grant process. The deadline for submission of proposals has been extended to January 8, 2010. Complete information is available at: http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/lg_grant/index.html *(City Clerk)*

3. Small Community Grant Program Spring Deadline for Applications Extended to February 8, 2010: The City Council has established a Small Community Grant Program to work in partnership with the community to help achieve the goals established in the Strategic Plan. Small grants of up to \$2,500 are available for projects that can be completed in the current fiscal year (ending June 30, 2010). The deadline to apply for the spring program has been extended to February 8, 2010. Complete information may be found at: <http://takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/sc-grants/index.html>. *(City Clerk)*

4. Leaf Collection: Leaf Collection Program is entering the last 3 weeks of collection. The program ends December 31. Please do not wait until the last few days of collection to rake your leaves out to the curb. The City's collection crews will be making the last cycle through all City streets beginning December 14. You can leave a message on the leaf collection hotline at 301-891-7626 if you rake your leaves out after the collection truck has made its final pass. Thank you to all residents for helping make this year's collection a smooth and efficient one. *(Public Works)*

5. Linden Avenue Project to Begin December 15: The project to replace the failing retaining wall at the end of Linden Avenue on the banks of Sligo Creek Parkway will soon start. The project will provide a much more aesthetically pleasing overlook to the creek, and add a stormwater filtration system to improve the water run-off quality and quantity now currently entering Sligo Creek at that location. The project is expected to take six months to complete. The project was funded through a federal stimulus grant provided through the Maryland Department of the Environment. The City Engineer, Ali Khalilian, can be contacted with any questions about the project at 301-891-7610 or AliK@takomagov.org. *(Public Works)*

6. Tonight - Opening Reception this Evening: A quick reminder that tomorrow evening we will be celebrating the opening of our newest exhibit at the Takoma Park

Community Center - "Palette of Russian Talents to Americans." The new exhibit features the work of prominent Russian artists and, as an added bonus, a collection of Russian children's art. You are invited to join us on Friday, December 11 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to view the exhibit, meet some of the artists and a chance to see Russian National costumes executed in modern manner. The exhibit can be viewed in the Atrium and Richard Dempsey Memorial Galleries on the main level of the Takoma Park Community Center through January 9, 2010. The exhibit is co-sponsored by the Artist Union of Russia in USA, the Takoma Foundation, Art for the People, and the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission. We hope you can join us! (*Housing and Community Development*)

7. Tomorrow - Annual Holiday Art Sale: The 4th annual Holiday Art Sale will be held tomorrow, Saturday, December 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Looking for the perfect gift - or want to treat yourself to a unique piece of jewelry or original art? Stop by the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, where over 30 local artists and crafters will be selling original paintings, photography, ceramics, jewelry, textiles, furnishings & more. The event is sponsored by the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission. (*Housing and Community Development*)

8. Thursday - Poetry Reading: The "floor is open" for this month's poetry reading. Poets of all ages and experience are encouraged to read their original work on Thursday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m. in Gallery 3 on the third floor of the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. (*Housing and Community Development*)

9. COLTA Holds Annual Meeting: The Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) held its annual meeting on December 9 in the Community Center and re-elected Jarrett K. Smith as Chair and elected Arthur Wohl as Vice-Chair. The appointments are for a one year term. COLTA is empowered to adjudicate and mediate complaints for violations of the City's Landlord-Tenant Relations law, to rule on petitions for rent increase above the rent stabilization allowance. and to decide appeals from the City Manager's decision to deny, suspend or revoke a rental license. In addition to ten COLTA Commissioners, Moses Wilds, Jr., DHCD staff person, who organized the meeting, and Kenneth Sigman, COLTA's Executive Director, attended this meeting. (*Housing and Community Development*)

10. Fair Return Rent Increase Petition Training Held For Landlords: DHCD staff, Jean Kerr and Linda Walker, held a training on December 9 for thirteen landlords on the Fair Return Rent Increase Petition process. Landlords who are subject to rent stabilization can file a fair return rent increase petition if they can show COLTA that they have a decreasing net operating income for their rental property. All landlords reported a better understanding of the rent petition process following the training. The date for the next fair return training is Wednesday, February 24, from 9:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required by calling 301-891-7222. (*Housing and Community Development*)

11. Gussini Fashion & Shoes (Ward 3): Gussini Fashion & Shoes unfortunately burned to the ground Saturday morning, December 4. The building and stock were

insured, and the City Planning Staff are reaching out to both the business and the property owner. *(Housing and Community Development)*

12. Main Street Takoma needs Volunteers! (Ward 1 and 3): Now is the time to put volunteering on a committee on your New Years Resolution list! Main Street Takoma works to improve the design, economic stability, promote the enjoyment of, and organize to assist the businesses and social activities that occur in Old Town, Takoma Junction and 4th Street DC. Volunteer committees (including City staff) meet monthly with executive staff to plan and hold events, implement improvements, and many other projects. For more information call 240-253-4229 or visit www.mainstreettakoma.org. *(Housing and Community Development)*

13. Arts in Communities Grant Award: The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission has learned that it has been awarded an Arts in Communities grant in the amount of \$1,000 from the Maryland State Arts Council to assist in an coming exhibit - "This is Our Body." The exhibit, a collaboration of work by local artists and poets, under the direction of the Takoma Park Poet Laureate Anne Becker, is scheduled to open in February 2010. *(Housing and Community Development)*

14. Youth Job Training Program: The Job Training Graduation Ceremony was held on Monday, December 5, 2009. There were 5 participants ages 18-20 who successfully completed the program. The Job Training Program will resume in January 2010 with a new partner, Southern Management. Southern Management has committed to interviewing two of the current graduates for a paid intern position for summer 2010. When the program commences in January, Southern Management has made it possible to expand the focus to also include GED preparation and Money Management modules. *(Recreation)*

15. Coaching Clinic: The Takoma Park Recreation Department held a Winter Basketball League 'Coach's Clinic' on Wednesday, December 9. The program was well attended, with a total of 25 coaches actively participating in the clinic. Takoma Park's very own "Coach G," Gary Weinstein, a veteran coach with years of experience, conducted the clinic with guided enthusiasm and fielded challenging questions in the Q & A portion of the clinic. In addition, every coach received a FUNdamentals of coaching youth basketball handbook and an overview of the content. Furthermore, Coach G emphasized that drills need to be fun and have a purpose. He also covered a variety of topics from practice plans to key skills and concepts. Coaches walked away from the clinic excited and feeling good about the start of their season. *(Recreation)*

16. Weed and Seed: The CSAFE-VPI Program Director is participating with the local Weed and Seed site located in Silver Spring in the development of a juvenile reentry plan for youth that return from detention to the Silver Spring area. The first meeting was held on December 7. *(Police)*

17. Santa in the Crosswalk: The Pedestrian Safety activity, Santa in the Crosswalk, was held on December 8. This is the fourth consecutive year that Santa has come to the

Crossroads and the ninth pedestrian safety initiative coordinated by the Maryland International Corridor CSAFE-VPI program since 2003. Yesterday, over 50 officers from Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Takoma Park and the Maryland National Capital Park Police departments joined forces with community volunteers to educate local pedestrians about the importance of crossing the street safely. The initiative was mostly focused on education and collectively officers issued approximately 90 warnings to pedestrians for failing to use a crosswalk, to vehicles for stopping in a crosswalk and blocking pedestrian right of way, to drivers for failing to use a seatbelt, to drivers for speeding and other moving violations and to drivers for failing to yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk. *(Police)*

18. Officers in Meetings:

- On December 8, Chief Ricucci, Det. Hoetzel and Ms. Plevy attended a Takoma Park Crime/Public Safety Forum held at the Presbyterian Church at Tulip & Maple Avenues in Takoma Park. Chief Ricucci discussed the current crime situation and public safety measures and answered a variety of questions from the citizens who also voiced their concerns. This was a public meeting, co-sponsored by the North Takoma, Old Town (OTRA), Pinecrest, SS Carroll and Westmoreland Area (WACO) associations.
- On December 11, Chief Ricucci attended the monthly Crossroads Development Authority (CDA) meeting; Capt. Coursey met with County Police and Transportation authorities in the first of several meetings to provide input to revisions to National Capital Region evacuation plans. *(Police)*

19. Officers in Training:

- On December 10, various sworn police personnel attended In-Serving Training for Defensive Tactics, at Heffner Park.
- On December 7 through 11, Pvt. Demuth, Ms. White and Ms. Plevy attended training entitled "District Forensic Technician Training" at the Montgomery County Police Academy. *(Police)*

20. Traffic Enforcement: Officers conducted at least 105 traffic stops, which resulted in citations, two vehicle impounds and one arrest from a traffic stop.

During December 1-7, 2009, the following details were completed:

December 1, 2009

- 1000 block of University Boulevard (speeding) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued two state citations for speed and one other State citation.

December 3, 2009

- Erskine Street & 13th Avenue (various violations) conducted a 15-minute detail and issued no citations or warnings.

December 4, 2009

- 1000 block of University Boulevard (speeding) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued one State citation for speed and two other State citations.

- Ethan Allen Avenue & Jackson Avenue (no right turn) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued three State citations.

December 5, 2009

- Kentland Avenue & East-West Highway (no left turn) - conducted a 90-minute detail and issued five State citations.

December 6, 2009

- Philadelphia Avenue & Holly Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued three State citations and one warning.
- Philadelphia Avenue & Holly Avenue stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued no citations or warnings.
- Philadelphia Avenue & Holly Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued four State citations.

December 7, 2009

- Wildwood Drive & Anne Street (various violations) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued no citations or warnings.

(Police)